Backwardness of Bihar

1734. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the RPIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar is still the poorest and most backward State in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of people living Below Poverty Line, literacy and drop-out rates; and

(c) the action taken to assist the States to come up to the National level norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) As per 2001 Census, the literacy rate in Bihar was 47.53% as compared to All India average of 65.37%. Percentage of people below poverty line in 1999-2000 in respect of undivided Bihar was 42.60% as against the All-India figure of 26.10%. Information on Dropout rates published in Selected Educational Statistics (1999-2000) for undivided Bihar *vis-a-vis* All India is given below:

Category	Drop out rate in Undivided Bihar (%)	All India Average (%)
Classes I-V	57.27	40.25
Classes I-VIII	77.62	54.53
Classes I-X	83.46	68.28

(c) Successful implementation of various programmes including Centrally Sponsored Schemes in education, rural development, social welfare, transport and other sectors by the Government of Bihar, can only help the State to come up to National level norm.

Rural income disparities

1735. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural income disparities across the States are widening;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Directorates of Economics and Statistics of various State Governments are responsible for estimating the State level aggregate income in terms of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) and Per Capita Income (PCI). Distribution of State level aggregate income across urban and rural areas is not made by any government agency. Hence, rural income disparities across the State cannot be measured.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

World Development Report

1736. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Development Report paints a dismal picture of development of India in terms of per capita income, levels of education, health, social welfare etc.; and

(b) the analysis made to ensure better performance and find out where things had gone wrong and how these should be rectified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. No such reference was found in the World Bank's World Development Report, 2002.

(b) The Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan as approved by the National Development Council has proposed that the Tenth Plan should aim at an indicative target of 8 per cent GDP growth for the period 2002—07.

It also states that:

Economic growth cannot be the only objective for national planning and indeed over the years, development objectives are being defined not just in terms of increases in GDP or per capita income but broader in terms of enhancement of human well being. This includes not only an adequate level of consumption of food and other types of consumer goods but also access to basic social services especially education, health, availability of drinking water and basic sanitation. It also includes the